these journals and thrust bearings require fluid in the gap between the facing surfaces. This fluid may either recirculate through an internal channel 134 which either passes through the thrust plate or between the thrust plate and shaft, or return through a central reservoir or the like such as the reservoir 30 shown in FIG. 1. In either case, a primary cause for concern is with the old design of FIG. 1 is to prevent the escape of any fluid between the surface 140 of the sleeve and the complementary surface 142 of the thrust plate. To avoid this loss, while enhancing the simplicity of the design, a laser weld 150 has been applied at the junction at the axially outer edge of the counterplate 130 and the sleeve 112. This laser weld is applied using well-known techniques and technology but by its very simplicity enhances the reliability.

IN THE DRAWINGS

In Fig. 2, Applicant hereby changes reference numeral "104" to "103". A copy marked in red ink showing the change is attached hereto.

IN THE ABSTRACT

Applicant hereby submits on a separate page attached hereto a new Abstract of the Disclosure which reads as follows:

A cartridge or motor which includes a shaft with a thrust plate at one end; the shaft is supported for rotation by a journal bearing along the shaft and thrust bearings on either side of a thrust plate, and fluid which provides the bearing surface; the counterplate which lies across the end of the shaft is welded to an extension of the sleeve in which the counterplate is fit to prevent fluid loss.

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

(Amended) 1. A spindle motor for use in a disc drive comprising

a shaft supporting a thrust plate at one end thereof,

a sleeve surrounding the shaft and adjacent the thrust plate and cooperating with the shaft to define a journal bearing and the thrust plate to define a first fluid thrust bearing,